

PLANT SHAFTS OF HONOR IN CUBA TO FALLEN AMERICAN WARRIORS

SCENES AND PARTICIPANTS IN THE COMMEMORATION OF AMERICAN BATTLES IN THE SANTIAGO CAMPAIGN OF THE WAR IN CUBA.



Santiago Battlefield Commission at Dedication of First Landing Monument, Daiquiri, Cuba.

Distinguished Army and Navy Officers Dedicate Tributes to American Valor.

CUBA GIVES GREETINGS

High Officials of the Island Republic Assist in Ceremonies in Memory of the Dead.

STIRRING SCENES RECALLED

Veterans of the Campaign Against Spain Hold a Reunion on the Deserted Fields.

On the morning of February 8 the United States transport Sumner left her anchorage in the East River, bound for the historic and memorable battlefields of Cuba, carrying on her passenger list some of the most distinguished officers of the army and navy, who were to participate in the dedication of battle monuments erected on the fields of El Caney, San Juan, Guantanamo, La Guasimas and Daiquiri, in memory of those who fell upon the field of honor in the campaign of 1898 in that vicinity.

The party included representatives of the President of the United States, the War and Navy Department and members of the Army of Santiago de Cuba, and comprised the following: General Adm. R. Chaffee, president of the society, and Mrs. Chaffee and daughter, Mrs. G. F. Hamilton and Miss Helen, Lieutenant Colonel A. C. Sharpe, secretary, and Mrs. Sharpe, Lieutenant General S. B. M. Young, representing the President of the United States, Brigadier General Albert L. Mills and Mrs. Mills, Lieutenant Colonel Webb C. Hayes, secretary of the Battlefield Commission; Mrs. C. P. Bond and Mrs. D. E. Mearns, representing the committee on dedication of first landing monument; Rear Admiral P. T. Higginson, representing the Secretary of the Navy, and Mrs. Higginson; Rear Admiral C. E. Clark and Mrs. Clark, Brigadier General W. H. Babson, Colonel T. B. Kerr and Mrs. Kerr, Colonel G. S. Grimes and Mrs. Grimes, Colonel E. S. Dudley, Colonel J. T. Kerr and Mrs. Kerr, Colonel D. C. Poole, Colonel J. S. Bishop, Lieutenant Colonel G. V. Lauman, Mrs. Howze and sister, Miss Hawkins, daughters of General Hawkins; Miss S. Haldane, Mrs. G. W. Reed, daughter of General Young; Mrs. E. St. John Greble and daughter, Mrs. L. C. Andrews, Major W. D. McLaw, Major W. A. Mann, Major W. D. Beech, General Staff; Major Edward Burr and Mrs. Burr, Major C. B. Baker and Mrs. Baker, Major F. W. Sholey, Major D. O. Phillips, Major Frank Keck, Captain W. P. Stone, Captain P. C. Pauntleroy, Captain F. W. Coe, Captain Dennis E. Nolan, General Staff; Captain Charles W. Eaton, Captain Hollis G. Clark, Mr. Carl P. Dick, son of Senator Dick of Ohio; Mr. S. A. Paxson, Mr. H. W. Ditzler, Mr. W. W. Willson and Mr. J. W. Sheridan.

ARRIVAL IN CUBA.

On the morning of February 13 we got our first glimpse of Cuba. The sun was blazing over a brilliant blue sea, great grim mountains rose before us and at the edge of the water a grove of coconut palms made a beautiful background. Just as the sun was about to sink in the west the Sumner arrived at Guantanamo Bay, thirty-eight miles east of Santiago. While Admiral Sampson's fleet was maintaining a blockade before Santiago the necessity of an important coaling station for his squadron became apparent. Coaling at sea was found to be more or less a failure, and it became necessary to use two great bases of supply, Key West and Guantanamo.

On June 10 under the protection of the guns of the Oregon, Marlborough and Yacenta the marines went ashore to establish a coaling station at this point. In the hills overlooking the bay were entrenched the first picked regiment of Spain, comprising a force of 650. After a most gallant fight lasting from June 10 to June 13 the marine force under command of Captain Elliott, now a brigadier general in command of the Marine Corps, succeeded in taking the hills with only ten of the Spanish force escaping and later making their way to Santiago.

On the crest of the hill Camp McClellan was established and on this point the commission dedicated the monument erected in commemoration of the battle of Cuicco Hills. Captain William N. McKelvey, in command of the marines on the gunboat Yankee, anchored in the harbor of Guantanamo, and who participated in the engagement, gave a most interesting account of the affair, stating that so stubborn was the defense of the Spanish forces that the marines were unable to get food for the period of three days.

WELCOME TO SANTIAGO.

Under escort of the Yankees we left Guantanamo Bay about four o'clock on the morning of February 14 and arrived at the entrance of the harbor of Santiago just at sunrise, and slowly steamed past Morro fortress and through the narrow channel which is the gateway to one of the most beautiful and secure harbors in the world. Nowhere else than in Cuba are found harbors of such a character, and here they are not infrequent, Mariel, Bahia Honda, Cienfuegos, Nuevitas, Banes,

Battle Monument on San Juan Hill.

Battle Monument, marking the first landing place of American Soldiers, Daiquiri, Cuba.



Monument on ruins of Fort El Viso, El Caney, Cuba.—Dedication Ceremonies.

Nipe and several others being similar. Havana is of like formation, but differs in that the city is built on one side of the entrance, and thus fully exposed from the sea. The others are deep pouches with a narrow neck, in some cases so narrow and tortuous that though the water is deep it is very difficult of entrance for a ship of more than moderate length. Passing through the purse neck like channel, followed closely by the Yankees, we entered the broad harbor of Santiago de Cuba, where the Spanish fleet under Admiral Cervera sat at anchor but a few years previous while our flying squadron was trying to locate it.

Scarcely had the echo of the guns of the saluting battery died away upon the distant hills when the steam launch of the captain of the port came alongside with representatives of the civil and military governments of Cuba.

General Chaffee, president of the Society of the Army of Santiago de Cuba, met the officials at the gangway and introduced them to the commission. The Cuban party included the American Consul, Mr. Halliday; General Garcia, Mayor Basorri, of the city of Santiago; General Rafael Portuondo, General Lora, General Minier, General Gonzalez, Mr. Chaves, representing the Union Club, and Mr. Rafael Vallante, of the San Carlos Club of Santiago.

FREEDOM OF THE CITY.

Mayor Basorri extended the freedom of the city to the commission, and shortly after their departure the Sumner's launch took the commission ashore to pay an official visit to Governor Manuel Tanco, which was followed by a return visit aboard the Sumner.

Ruins of Fort El Viso, El Caney, Cuba.

Mr. Halliday received the commission at his residence at twelve o'clock, and in anticipation of our arrival the city of Santiago presented the appearance of a grand festa. From nearly every Cuban home hung the stars and stripes and the flag of the Republic of Cuba.

Promptly at two o'clock the commission left the American Consulate in carriages provided for the purpose to take part in

the dedication of the battle monument on the ruins of Fort El Viso, El Caney, the scene of the most stubborn fight of the Santiago campaign.

El Caney is a small, compact village about six miles to the northeast of Santiago and upon the main road to Guantanamo. At the southeast corner is a steep, conical hill one hundred feet high, crowned by an old fashioned but strong

stone fort, which forms a prominent and unique feature in the landscape. On the day of the fight this fort was extensively loopholed and further strengthened by a deep rifle trench outside on the south and east sides.

Around the village at frequent intervals were half a dozen smaller block houses, connected by short lengths of trenches with wire entanglements in front.

The military importance of El Caney had long been recognized by the Spaniards and its defenses had been arranged with the greatest care. The garrison consisted of about one thousand infantry. Upon the ruins of this former Spanish stronghold gathered our little party to commemorate the valor of American arms. From the former ramparts waved the Stars and Stripes and the flag of Cuba.

Surrounding the fort were two companies of Cuban artillery on one side and a battalion of marines and a company of "blue jackets" from the gunboat Yankee on the other. Between the troops were stationed the Cuban artillery band and the Fifth United States artillery band.

Beyond lay the fertile valley and around us on three sides arose, tier upon tier, the beautiful Maestra Mountains, wearing delicate pearly tints. To our left stretched the thick green jungle, with its rippling bamboo groves and clumps of royal palms with here and there gorgeous scarlet "flamboyant" to break the green monotony. The only landmark in all this wide expanse was the Ducourland House, a country seat that lay midway between El Caney and Santiago.

A few miles away in this direction loomed the long, undulating ridge of San Juan, and behind it showed up clearly the faint pink buildings that marked the city of Santiago. The whole scene was preeminently one of peace.

The dedication ceremonies were of the most imposing order. Every head was bared in silent reverence while the strains of "The Star Spangled Banner" were wafted over this former battlefield. General Chaffee stood on the crest of the hill and gave an interesting account of the position of the American troops. The plan of attack was, briefly, to surround the village, with Chaffee's brigade on the north and east sides and Ludlow's brigade on the south

and west, and then to press home a convergent infantry attack.

To assure the success of such an operation a previous and heavy bombardment was necessary. At El Caney, however, our artillery force comprised but four guns, being quite unequal to the task. Consequently the infantry had to do all the fighting, and the brunt of it fell on the men of Chaffee's brigade. It was just three o'clock when the hill was taken. The monument erected by the Republic of Cuba and the United States upon this historical site comprises a shaft within the enclosure of the ruins, upon which a tablet has been placed, inscribed upon which are the names of those who fell and the troops taking part, the whole surrounded by Spanish cannon and mortars.

CUBA'S GLOWING TRIBUTE.

General Andradá, representing the President of the Republic of Cuba, paid a glowing tribute to the valor of American arms and eloquently expressed the national gratitude to the United States and the desire of Cuba to co-operate with the United States in every respect. He said that America could depend upon Cuba as a military and commercial ally and expressed the hope that at no distant day Cuba would be able to erect tablets to her fallen heroes and have the American people share in the ceremony.

GENERAL CHAFFEE'S TRIBUTE.

Chief of the Expedition at Santiago Tells of the Victories Achieved—Admiral Clark's Address.

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General Chaffee, as president of the society, introduced the speakers and spoke, in part, as follows:—"It is well within the recollection of men and women present that for several years prior to 1898 the aspirations and efforts of the Cuban people for a government independent and national in character were strenuously opposed by a foreign nation which supported its policy with a large army in occupation of the country; that as a consequence of relentless determination upon the one hand and upon the other there arose serious conflicts.

"Hither came an army of United States soldiers and the ships of her splendid navy. Highly important events followed quickly. It is a matter of history that within the brief time of twenty days our army and navy, aided by a patriotic force of Cubans, gloriously battled in their respective spheres of action, on land and sea, gaining victories; the political authority of a great nation in control here for more than a hundred years, her military and naval power in this section of the world, was rendered ineffective, and in a short time thereafter diplomatically terminated forever.

"Soldiers were here and at nearby places killed in the battles; others bled and died of wounds received in action; still others fell sick and died of disease contracted here. But what of the compensation for this loss? When the contending parties had ceased their strife; when all the implements of war had been removed from sight; when real peace, good order, happiness and contentment of the people blossomed fragrantly to our several senses— if I may so speak—a million and a half of Cubans were made free and independent, and in place of a government of arbitrary power, political and military of a foreign nation, there has been substituted the will and force of the Cuban people, free and independently exercised by their own representatives.

"Now, seven and a half years after hostilities here, representatives of the army of Santiago de Cuba, of the navy of the United States, have come to mark with enduring bronze the field of honorable sacrifice of soldier life for country—for a government by the people.

"We are indeed glad to understand that the presence here of these representatives, of these citizens, of these friends, is to show their appreciation of services rendered in this vicinity by soldiers and sailors of the United States and by patriotic Cubans. We hope that when, with the generous assistance of the government and people of Cuba, marking of this battle field shall have been completed as planned, strangers shall come here to read from the tablets of bronze the names of our fallen comrades, shall observe the industrial progress certain to be made in this island, mark the intellectual and social advancement of the Cuban people under just and liberal laws, the motto of the Society of the Army of Santiago de Cuba will encompass their thoughts—'As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free.'"

After the invocation by the Rev. J. B. Manabeo, General Young, representing the President of the United States, spoke in part as follows:—"Eight years ago the patriots of this beautiful island nation, after years of trials, sufferings and defeats, were made happy by the echo of our guns in their caves—Las Guasimas, El Caney, San Juan and Kettle Hill and on the sea front of

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